

Message Text

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14

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00

SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-06 OMB-01 /050 W
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R 280944Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1318

INFO DEA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TH, SNAR

SUBJ: RECENT NARCOTICS SEIZURES AND ARRESTS

1. POLICE FROM THE CRIME SUPPRESSION DIVISION SEIZED 83 KILOGRAMS OF RAW OPIUM AND ARRESTED THREE MEN ON JULY 25 IN BANGKOK. THE OPIUM WAS HIDDEN IN A TRUCK CARRYING SALTED FISH FROM THE TOWN OF RANONG. AN INFORMANT WHO HELPED SET UP THE SEIZURE CLAIMED THAT THE OPIUM WAS SHIPPED FROM RANGOON BY COASTAL FREIGHTER TO AN AREA CALLED THE "TWO ISLANDS" OFFSHORE FROM THE BURMESE TOWN OF KAWTHAUNG (VICTORIA POINT). THAI LONG-TAILED BOATS THEN PICKED UP THE OPIUM AND BROUGHT IT TO THAILAND. IT IS BELIEVED THAT THIS SEIZURE REPRESENTS ONLY A FRACTION OF THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF OPIUM SMUGGLED INTO THAILAND BY THIS ROUTE.

2. ON JULY 24 POLICE FROM THE BANGKOK METROPLITAN NARCOTICS UNIT SEIZED 6.7 KILOGRAMS OF LOW QUALITY NUMBER 3 HEROIN AND ARRESTED TWO DEALERS. POLICE WORKED UNDER COVER FOR TWO MONTHS TO SET UP THE TWO PUSHERS, SHO HAVE BEEN DEALING IN NARCOTICS FOR YEARS.

3. ON JULY 24, CRIME SUPPRESSION POLICE IN BANGKOK ARRESTED TWO MEN AND SEIZED ABOUT 1.5 KILOGRAMS OF NUMBER 4 HEROIN. A THIRD MAN, PHIRA PHUMYAM, SUSPECTED TO

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BE THE BOSS OF THE ARRESTED MEN, ESCAPED AFTER A SCUFFLE

WITH POLICE. PHIRA IS THE OWNER OF A SCHOOL IN NONTHABURI. POLICE HAVE ISSUED A WARRANT FOR HIS ARREST. POLICE COULD HAVE SET UP A BIGGER SALE IN THIS CASE, BUT WERE LIMITED BY THE SIZE OF THEIR FLASHROLL.

4. ON JULY 27 THAI CUSTOMS OFFICIALS ARRESTED TWO HONG KONG CHINESE WHO ATTEMPTED TO SMUGGLE TWO KILOGRAMS OF COOKED OPIUM TO HONG KONG. AN AIRPORT SECURITY SPECIALIST FOUND THE OPIUM STRAPPED TO THE WAISTS OF THE MEN DURING A ROUTINE SHAKEDOWN. THE MEN CLAIMED THAT THEY WERE OPIUM ADDICTS AND THE OPIUM WAS FOR PERSONAL USE.

5. BANGKOK NEWSPAPERS REPORTED THAT FOUR PERSONS WERE ARRESTED IN SONGKHLA WITH 700 GRAMS OF NUMBER 4 HEROIN ON JULY 20. THE ARRESTS WERE MADE BY CRIME SUPPRESSION POLICE.
WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, OPIUM, DRUG SEIZURES, ARRESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BANGKO21237
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760291-0762
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760715/aaaaamug.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAY 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <15 SEP 2004 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RECENT NARCOTICS SEIZURES AND ARRESTS
TAGS: SNAR, TH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006